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03500.017401

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Kosuke YAMAMOTO ) Examiner: David H. Bollinger  
Application No.: 10/614,024 ) Group Art Unit: 3653  
Filed: July 8, 2003 ) Confirmation No.: 9492  
For: SHEET MATERIAL CONVEYING ) January 31, 2005  
APPARATUS, RECORDING : (Monday)  
APPARATUS AND RECORDING )  
SYSTEM :  
:

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated December 30, 2004.

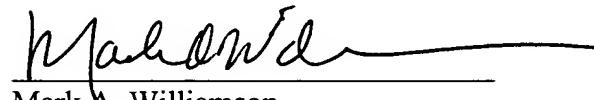
A careful review of the specification reveals that the two species (Fig. 1 and Fig. 7) are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143,  
Applicants provisionally elect Species I, represented by Fig. 1. It is respectfully submitted  
that all of Claims 1-15 read on the elected species. The Examiner noted that Claims 1-3,  
11, 12 and 14 are generic.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.  
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed  
to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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